

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8, 10-17, 25-27, 31, 32, 34-57 are pending. In the previous response Claim 9 was also pending. Claims 9 and 10 were objected to as allowable if rewritten as independent Claims. All other claims were rejected on various arguments involving 35 USC sections 102 and 103. Claims 11, 12, 17, 31, 32, and 51-54 were rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph. This response will address the 25 USC 112 rejections and amend Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 9, thus making the root claim for all the Claims allowable, and the remaining Claims allowable through the inheriting of the limitations of that Claim.

Remarks regarding Claims rejected under 35 USC 112 paragraph 2

Claims 11, 12, 17, 31, 32, and 51-54 stand rejected. **Claims 11 and 12** were rejected for not establishing a frame of reference for the angle. Claim 12 depends upon 11. Claim 11 has been amended based upon page 11 line 20 to page 12 line 2 of the initially filed application as follows:

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein for each member of said deflection rail collection, said angle of said front face with respect to a principal axis of said slider is between ninety degrees and one hundred and eighty degrees.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein for each member of said deflection rail collection, said angle of said front face is between one hundred and twenty degrees and one hundred and seventy degrees.

Consequently, the frame of reference for the angle of the front face has now been established in these Claims, and the Examiner is requested to remove this rejection from these Claims.

Claim 17 was rejected for appearing to duplicate Claim 13. Claim 17 has been cancelled.

17. (cancelled)

Consequently, this rejection of the Claim may be removed.

Claim 31 was rejected for depending upon a cancelled claim. This Claim has been amended as follows:

31. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~30~~ 1, wherein for said at least one member of said deflection rail collection, at least one of said front faces is essentially straight.

Consequently, the Examiner is requested to remove this rejection from this Claim.

Claim 51 depends from Claim 52, but the preambles do not match up and the phrase “said actuator arms” lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 51 has been amended to address this rejection as follows:

51. (currently amended) A method of making an actuator assembly, comprising the step of: coupling at least one of said actuator arms of Claim ~~52~~ 50 to an actuator pivot.

Consequently, the Examiner is requested to remove this rejection from this Claim.

Claim 52 as it was presented has the phrases “said actuator assembly” and “said actuator pivot”, which lack proper antecedent basis. Claim 52 has been amended as follows:

*52. (currently amended) A method of making a hard disk drive, comprising the step of:
 mounting said actuator assembly of Claim 51 through said actuator pivot to a disk base.*

Consequently, the Examiner is requested to remove this rejection from this Claim.

Remarks regarding Objected Claims that are allowable if rewritten

Claims 9 and 10 were objected to as allowable if rewritten as independent claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 9. Claim 9 has been cancelled. And Claim 10 has been amended to change its dependence from Claim 9 to Claim 1 as shown below:

*1. (currently amended) An air bearing surface used in a slider, comprising:
each member of a deflection rail collection resides in a negative pressure
pocket formed between a leading air bearing surface and a central island containing
a read-write head;
said deflection rail collection comprises a left deflection rail, a right
deflection rail, a second left deflection rail, and a second right deflection rail;
wherein said left deflection rail is separated by a first gap from said right
deflection rail;
wherein said gap is greater than zero distance;
wherein each member of said deflection rail collection includes a front face
at an angle to the principal axis of said slider to aid deflecting an incoming particle
away from said central island, whenever said slider is in operation.*

9. (cancelled)

*10. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~9~~ 1, wherein for each member
of said deflection rail collection, said front face aids deflecting said incoming
particle away from said read-write head.*

Claim 1 is now allowable, through its incorporation of the limitations of Claim 9 from the previous response.

All other pending claims depend upon Claim 1, inherit its limitations and are thus allowable. Consequently, the Examiner is requested to remove any rejections due to 35 USC 102 and/or 35 USC 103 from these claims.

Summary of the Remarks

The presented Claims include amendments made to clarify the invention and address the Examiner's objections and rejections under 35 USC 112. These amendments have been made to further expedite the prosecution of this application and do not constitute new matter, nor do they constitute an agreement by the Applicant to the Examiner's analysis. Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's representative as listed below for a telephonic interview if so doing would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Very respectfully submitted,

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